



Erie County Youth Bureau  
810 East Ferry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14211

# Youth Bureau Tales

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2013

## A Goodbye Letter from the Deputy Commissioner

Inside this issue:

A Goodbye Letter from the Deputy Commissioner	1
A Letter From the Director	1
Primetime A Success; Year Round Continues	2
2014 YB Orientation	2
Agency Focus #1	3
Agency Focus #2	3
Seneca Babcock	3
Contact Information	4

Happy Holidays, Community Change Agents!

Congratulations on a wonderful year of outstanding service! You have served over 10,000 youth/families throughout Erie County and should be extremely proud and encouraged. Anytime one has the ability to provide a quality educational experience for a child, know that you have left a positive footprint on their life.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to let you know that I will be leaving the County as of December 18<sup>th</sup>. I received a valuable opportunity to work with the Girl Scouts of WNY as the Senior Vice President of Membership & Programs.

I have truly enjoyed my tenure here and appreciate having the opportunity to work with so many like-minded people. I will definitely miss working with you in this capacity and wish you continued success in your endeavors to impact our young people positively!

Have a safe, fun holiday season and I look forward to connecting with you in my new role.

Best,  
Morgan Williams-Bryant  
Deputy Commissioner, Youth Services

## A Letter from the Director

Erie County Youth Board:

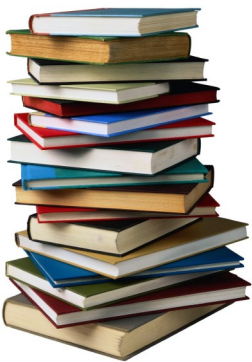
- \* LaVerne Ampadu
- \* David Caywood
- \* William Conrad
- \* Jill Gorman-King
- \* Tanya Hernandez
- \* Margaret Jones-Carey
- \* Susan Lumadue
- \* Kathleen O'Brien
- \* Michael Randall
- \* Carolynn Welch
- \* Tony Williams

Hello and Welcome!

The **Youth Bureau** has decided that it would be a magnificent idea to bring back the Newsletter. It is a place where the agencies, residents and parents of **Erie County** can see the fantastic impact the **towns, villages, municipals** and **agencies** have on the youth of our County. It is our hope as the Bureau that you enjoy the stories and articles in this newsletter and all of the hard work that is taking place in Erie County to make the future of our children a little brighter.

Thank you to the agencies that took the time to offer information and share their stories in this year's newsletter as we hope you find the articles and information both educational and enjoyable. Thank you also to John Kordrupel for all of his hard work and creativity putting together the newsletter.

With Warmest Holiday Wishes,  
Racheal Tarapacki  
Director, Erie County Youth Bureau



Erie County Youth Bureau  
810 East Ferry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14211

# Youth Bureau Tales

Volume 1, Issue 1

December 2013

## A Goodbye Letter from the Deputy Commissioner

Inside this issue:

A Goodbye Letter from the Deputy Commissioner	1
A Letter From the Director	1
Primetime A Success; Year Round Continues	2
2014 YB Orientation	2
Agency Focus #1	3
Agency Focus #2	3
Seneca Babcock	3
Contact Information	4

Happy Holidays, Community Change Agents!

Congratulations on a wonderful year of outstanding service! You have served over 10,000 youth/families throughout Erie County and should be extremely proud and encouraged. Anytime one has the ability to provide a quality educational experience for a child, know that you have left a positive footprint on their life.

I also wanted to take the opportunity to let you know that I will be leaving the County as of December 18<sup>th</sup>. I received a valuable opportunity to work with the Girl Scouts of WNY as the Senior Vice President of Membership & Programs.

I have truly enjoyed my tenure here and appreciate having the opportunity to work with so many like-minded people. I will definitely miss working with you in this capacity and wish you continued success in your endeavors to impact our young people positively!

Have a safe, fun holiday season and I look forward to connecting with you in my new role.

Best,  
Morgan Williams-Bryant  
Deputy Commissioner, Youth Services

## A Letter from the Director

Erie County Youth Board:

- \* LaVerne Ampadu
- \* David Caywood
- \* William Conrad
- \* Jill Gorman-King
- \* Tanya Hernandez
- \* Margaret Jones-Carey
- \* Susan Lumadue
- \* Kathleen O'Brien
- \* Michael Randall
- \* Carolynn Welch
- \* Tony Williams

Hello and Welcome!

The **Youth Bureau** has decided that it would be a magnificent idea to bring back the Newsletter. It is a place where the agencies, residents and parents of **Erie County** can see the fantastic impact the **towns, villages, municipals** and **agencies** have on the youth of our County. It is our hope as the Bureau that you enjoy the stories and articles in this newsletter and all of the hard work that is taking place in Erie County to make the future of our children a little brighter.

Thank you to the agencies that took the time to offer information and share their stories in this year's newsletter as we hope you find the articles and information both educational and enjoyable. Thank you also to John Kordrupel for all of his hard work and creativity putting together the newsletter.

With Warmest Holiday Wishes,  
Racheal Tarapacki  
Director, Erie County Youth Bureau

Primetime A Success; Year Round Continues

**Primetime 2013** was a great success for Erie County!

Almost 5,000 youth were directly served by 43 programs, run by 41 different non-profit agencies from Buffalo and surrounding communities.

Our **Year-Round funding** grants will continue through the end of 2013. A total of 48 agencies are currently serving thousands of Erie County's youth.

In addition, we are pleased to report that four agencies - African-American Cultural Center, Firsthand Learning, Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education, and Young Audiences- have worked di-

rectly with the youth temporarily housed at the Secure **Youth Detention Facility** located at 810 East Ferry Street in Buffalo providing classes in Chess, Spanish, Arts, Cultural experiences, Conflict Resolution, Career Exploration and much more.

Programs offered by our funded agencies include, but are not limited to: Afterschool tutoring and Homework Help, Gang/Violence Prevention, Youth employment, Faith-and School-Based Initiatives, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Juvenile Justice/Diversion, and Mentoring.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful to all of the agencies and individuals, both staff and volunteers, who are dedicated to serving the youth of Erie County.

Thank you also to the **Youth Board** for their hard work and dedication, their knowledge of our communities and the agencies that serve them is invaluable. We are excited for what is to come in 2014!



2014 Youth Bureau Orientation

The **2014 Youth Bureau Orientation** is scheduled for Friday, January 17th.

Orientation will be held from 10:30am-12:00pm at Erie 1 BOCES, located at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

Agencies are required to attend the orientation as all contracts will be distributed and signed at this time. Municipalities are strongly encouraged to attend. Topics covered will include an overview of contracts, important dates

throughout the funding period, funding changes in 2014 and beyond, fiscal responsibilities, monitoring, and measurement of performance outcomes.

A Policy & Procedures Manual will be distributed to those agencies in attendance who have been awarded Youth Development funding.

Award notices for agencies will be sent out this month. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Racheal Tarapacki or John Kordrupel.



Primetime A Success; Year Round Continues

**Primetime 2013** was a great success for Erie County!

Almost 5,000 youth were directly served by 43 programs, run by 41 different non-profit agencies from Buffalo and surrounding communities.

Our **Year-Round funding** grants will continue through the end of 2013. A total of 48 agencies are currently serving thousands of Erie County's youth.

In addition, we are pleased to report that four agencies - African-American Cultural Center, Firsthand Learning, Willie Hutch Jones Sports & Education, and Young Audiences- have worked di-

rectly with the youth temporarily housed at the Secure **Youth Detention Facility** located at 810 East Ferry Street in Buffalo providing classes in Chess, Spanish, Arts, Cultural experiences, Conflict Resolution, Career Exploration and much more.

Programs offered by our funded agencies include, but are not limited to: Afterschool tutoring and Homework Help, Gang/Violence Prevention, Youth employment, Faith-and School-Based Initiatives, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Juvenile Justice/Diversion, and Mentoring.

In this season of Thanksgiving, we are grateful to all of the agencies and individuals, both staff and volunteers, who are dedicated to serving the youth of Erie County.

Thank you also to the **Youth Board** for their hard work and dedication, their knowledge of our communities and the agencies that serve them is invaluable. We are excited for what is to come in 2014!



2014 Youth Bureau Orientation

The **2014 Youth Bureau Orientation** is scheduled for Friday, January 17th.

Orientation will be held from 10:30am-12:00pm at Erie 1 BOCES, located at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

Agencies are required to attend the orientation as all contracts will be distributed and signed at this time. Municipalities are strongly encouraged to attend. Topics covered will include an overview of contracts, important dates

throughout the funding period, funding changes in 2014 and beyond, fiscal responsibilities, monitoring, and measurement of performance outcomes.

A Policy & Procedures Manual will be distributed to those agencies in attendance who have been awarded Youth Development funding.

Award notices for agencies will be sent out this month. Any questions or concerns should be directed to Racheal Tarapacki or John Kordrupel.



## Agency Focus: Compeer

**Compeer’s** mission is to use the power of volunteer friends and mentors to improve the lives of children, adults, and elders who are striving for good mental health.

The Compeer model of mentoring has been nationally recognized.

Most recently (2013), it met the requirements of a national review and is now included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

(NREPP), a program of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In July of this year, a group of Compeer Kids and their mentors enjoyed a day at Forward Strides Equine-Assisted Therapy and Learning in Clarence, NY. The participants groomed and then rode the horses. Cherished memories were made that day!



## Agency Focus: Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora

**The Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora** provides youth services to over 1,300 members, ages 5-18, every year. Over 320 youth attend the Club daily. The Club employs a concept known as Project Learn, a program that reinforces the academic enrichment of young people during the time they spend at the Club. Project Learn consists of Power Hour, a direct educational program where kids work on and get help with their homework, and have all the resources they need to finish homework and school projects. The program also injects High Yield Learning Activities

(HYLA’s) into every other program area from the arts to athletics. With Project Learn, our entire Club becomes a Learning Center. Some examples of the HYLA’s that take place at the Club are:

- In the Club Cooking program where kids must read and follow recipes and learn measurements and how to modify these same measurements.
- In Swoosh Club- where Club Members are refs for league games. They also utilize Excel spreadsheets to calculate winning percentages and keep game

“With Project Learn, our entire Club becomes a Learning Center.”

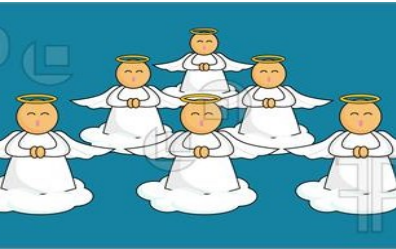
stats.

- In Jr. Staff- where Club Members run the Club snack bar and must purchase and calculate the prices of the snacks they are selling.
- In the Art Room and Computer Lab - members write stories and poetry that is submitted to the Kid’s Page in the Advertiser.

## Seneca Babcock Teenangels

**Teenangels** are a group of middle and high school students from the **Seneca-Babcock Community Center** whose mission is to bring joy to others in need through song, dance, playing games, going shopping, doing food drives, making holiday cards, and/or just hanging out together. For a few hours, a couple times a month, the youth give a little invaluable gift of their friendship. Teenangels visit hospitals, homeless shelters, veterans’facilities, hospice centers, nursing homes - wherever they could brighten a life.

Every holiday season the youth at the Seneca-Babcock Community Center are fortunate enough to be sponsored for Christmas. This holiday season the Teenangels group will go Christmas shopping for 40 youth who display a greater need physically, socially, economically and/or mentally. These youth know that they live in poverty and that they have it rough but the goal this holiday season is for the youth to realize that there are children just like them who have a greater need and they will have a chance to pay it forward.



## Agency Focus: Compeer

**Compeer’s** mission is to use the power of volunteer friends and mentors to improve the lives of children, adults, and elders who are striving for good mental health.

The Compeer model of mentoring has been nationally recognized.

Most recently (2013), it met the requirements of a national review and is now included in the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

(NREPP), a program of The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a branch of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

In July of this year, a group of Compeer Kids and their mentors enjoyed a day at Forward Strides Equine-Assisted Therapy and Learning in Clarence, NY. The participants groomed and then rode the horses. Cherished memories were made that day!



## Agency Focus: Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora

**The Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora** provides youth services to over 1,300 members, ages 5-18, every year. Over 320 youth attend the Club daily. The Club employs a concept known as Project Learn, a program that reinforces the academic enrichment of young people during the time they spend at the Club. Project Learn consists of Power Hour, a direct educational program where kids work on and get help with their homework, and have all the resources they need to finish homework and school projects. The program also injects High Yield Learning Activities

(HYLA’s) into every other program area from the arts to athletics. With Project Learn, our entire Club becomes a Learning Center. Some examples of the HYLA’s that take place at the Club are:

- In the Club Cooking program where kids must read and follow recipes and learn measurements and how to modify these same measurements.
- In Swoosh Club- where Club Members are refs for league games. They also utilize Excel spreadsheets to calculate winning percentages and keep game

“With Project Learn, our entire Club becomes a Learning Center.”

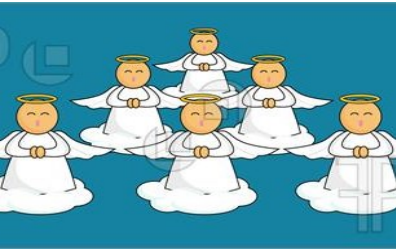
stats.

- In Jr. Staff- where Club Members run the Club snack bar and must purchase and calculate the prices of the snacks they are selling.
- In the Art Room and Computer Lab - members write stories and poetry that is submitted to the Kid’s Page in the Advertiser.

## Seneca Babcock Teenangels

**Teenangels** are a group of middle and high school students from the **Seneca-Babcock Community Center** whose mission is to bring joy to others in need through song, dance, playing games, going shopping, doing food drives, making holiday cards, and/or just hanging out together. For a few hours, a couple times a month, the youth give a little invaluable gift of their friendship. Teenangels visit hospitals, homeless shelters, veterans’facilities, hospice centers, nursing homes - wherever they could brighten a life.

Every holiday season the youth at the Seneca-Babcock Community Center are fortunate enough to be sponsored for Christmas. This holiday season the Teenangels group will go Christmas shopping for 40 youth who display a greater need physically, socially, economically and/or mentally. These youth know that they live in poverty and that they have it rough but the goal this holiday season is for the youth to realize that there are children just like them who have a greater need and they will have a chance to pay it forward.





**Erie County Youth  
Bureau**

810 East Ferry St.  
Buffalo, NY 14211  
Fax: 716-893-7929

**Deputy Commissioner:**  
Morgan Williams-Bryant  
Phone: 716-923-4065  
Email: morgan.williams-  
bryant@erie.gov

**Director:** Racheal Tarapacki  
Phone: 716-923-4051  
Email: racheal.tarapacki@erie.gov

**Youth Services Planning  
Coordinator:** John Kordrupel  
Phone: 716-923-4009  
Email: john.kordrupel@erie.gov

**Supervisor of Claims:** NeCole Ervin  
Phone: 716-923-4047  
Email: necole.ervin@erie.gov

**Senior Account Clerk:** Donna Mertel  
Phone: 716-923-4008  
Email: donna.mertel@erie.gov



**ECYB Mission: To serve  
youth and families  
through  
asset development and  
advocacy, prevention, and  
intervention programs  
that strengthen families  
and communities.**

[www2.erie.gov  
/socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices)

**Erie County Youth  
Bureau**

810 East Ferry St.  
Buffalo, NY 14211  
Fax: 716-893-7929

**Deputy Commissioner:**  
Morgan Williams-Bryant  
Phone: 716-923-4065  
Email: morgan.williams-  
bryant@erie.gov

**Director:** Racheal Tarapacki  
Phone: 716-923-4051  
Email: racheal.tarapacki@erie.gov

**Youth Services Planning  
Coordinator:** John Kordrupel  
Phone: 716-923-4009  
Email: john.kordrupel@erie.gov

**Supervisor of Claims:** NeCole Ervin  
Phone: 716-923-4047  
Email: necole.ervin@erie.gov

**Senior Account Clerk:** Donna Mertel  
Phone: 716-923-4008  
Email: donna.mertel@erie.gov



**ECYB Mission: To serve  
youth and families  
through  
asset development and  
advocacy, prevention, and  
intervention programs  
that strengthen families  
and communities.**

[www2.erie.gov  
/socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices)

**To find out more information on the agencies mentioned in this  
edition, please check out their  
websites below:**

African American Cultural Center- <http://www.africancultural.org/>

Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora- <http://www.bgcea.org/>

Compeer- <http://www.compeerbuffalo.org/home.html>

First Hand Learning-<http://www.firsthandlearning.org/>

Girl Scouts-<http://www.gswny.org/>

Seneca Babcock- <http://senecababcock.org/Home.html>

Valley Community Center-<http://thevalleycenter.com/>

Willie Hutch Jones Sports and Education-<http://www.whjsc.org/>



**To find out more information on the agencies mentioned in this  
edition, please check out their  
websites below:**

African American Cultural Center- <http://www.africancultural.org/>

Boys & Girls Club of East Aurora- <http://www.bgcea.org/>

Compeer- <http://www.compeerbuffalo.org/home.html>

First Hand Learning-<http://www.firsthandlearning.org/>

Girl Scouts-<http://www.gswny.org/>

Seneca Babcock- <http://senecababcock.org/Home.html>

Valley Community Center-<http://thevalleycenter.com/>

Willie Hutch Jones Sports and Education-<http://www.whjsc.org/>

